



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR -7 2003

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Bridget Moran
Endangered Species Program Coordinator
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Bridget;

I am writing in follow-up to the discussion we had on the telephone at the end of January, about Washington State Department of Agriculture's desire to develop a state-initiated plan for protection of listed threatened and endangered species within the State. As I mentioned to you at that time, EPA has proposed in its Federal Register Notice of December 2, 2002, that states be afforded the opportunity to develop such plans that if acceptable, would be adopted by EPA as the Federal program within the state. I would be happy to hear more about your ideas for such a plan at our mutual convenience.

It is my understanding that through the past work of your office and the WSDA Endangered Species/Pesticide Task Force, you have or are putting in place a program what will allow you to obtain site-specific data that may be of value in assessing the potential of pesticides to affect listed salmonids in Washington State. As you are aware, we are currently assessing this potential for pesticides containing any of over 50 active ingredients. Information you are compiling, such as crop locations, timing of pesticide applications, and salmonid presence would be of value in my office's efforts to ensure the geographic scope of any necessary modifications in use, are as narrowly identified as possible while still being protective of the species.

Finally, WSDA's ability to interact with and understand the issues of local pesticide users will be advantageous as we determine how best to address listed species concerns. We would be happy for your office to bring to the table, information on current practices at the local level and information on the impact to agriculture from potential new protective measures -- both of which will be valuable in framing any needed protection and ultimately, county bulletins.

I would be happy to meet with you and your staff to further discuss your ideas about a state-initiated plan and to obtain from you, additional information on the data you may have available that would inform our risk assessments specific to listed pacific salmonids in Washington State, and that would be of value in our mutual efforts to develop county bulletins or other forms of communication with pesticide users.

Thank you for your interest in this program. I look forward to our meeting to further explore this cooperative relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur-Jean B. Williams", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Chief
Environmental Field Branch (7506C)
Field and External Affairs Division

cc: Marie Jennings, EPA Region 10